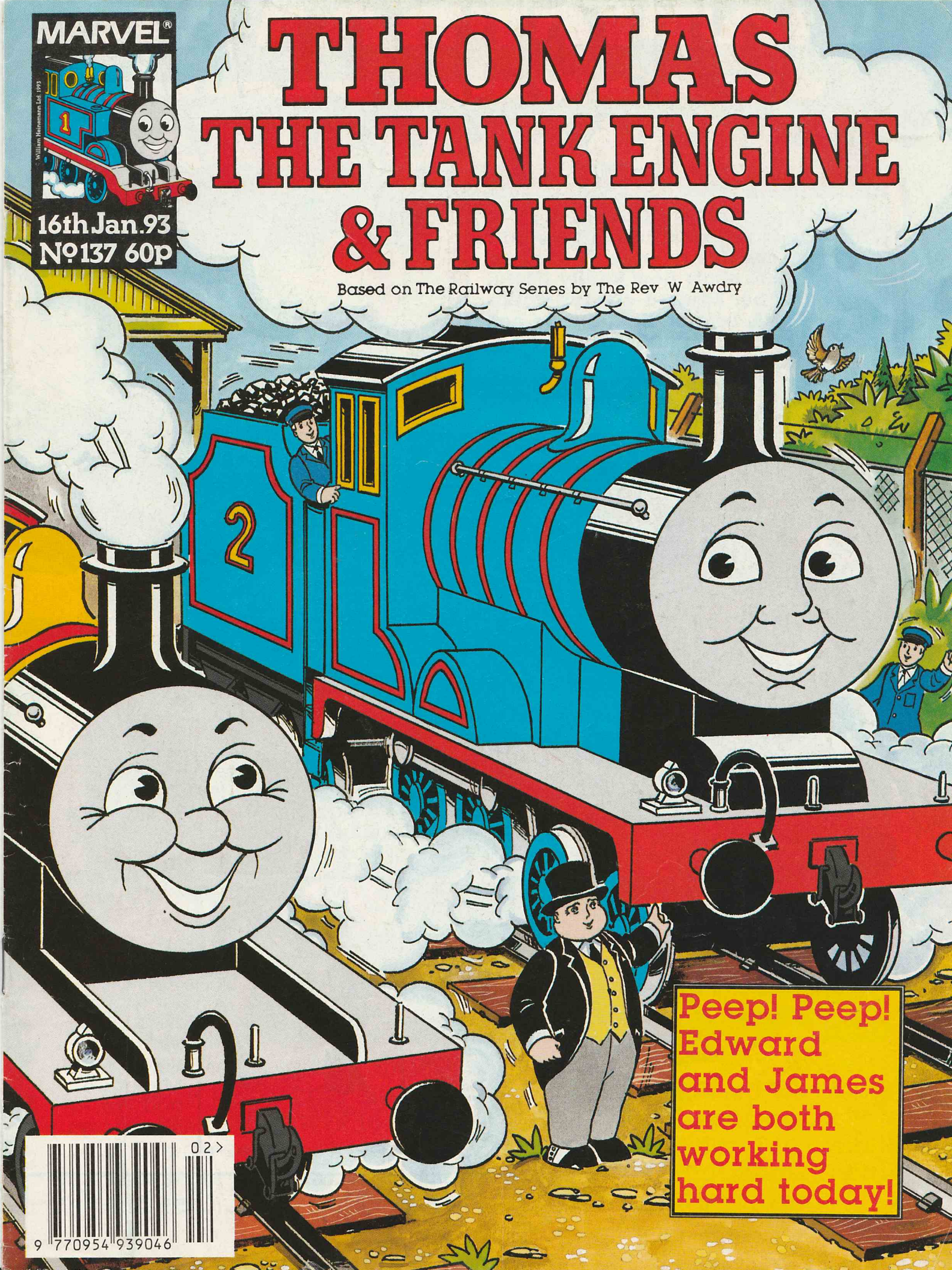
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THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev W Awdry
Peep! Peep! Edward and James are both working hard today!
9 770954 939046 02>

NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! The Fat Controller's railway is run so efficiently and all the engines like to work as hard as they can to show how Really Useful they can be. Edward always works hard on his branch line, but he has decided that he must work much harder than usual. You can find out why when you read the story that begins on page 3! Peep! Peep!

NEW STAR LETTER PRIZES!

In this issue *(and continuing for 5 more issues)* we will be offering our readers some special new **STAR LETTER** prizes featuring **Teaching Clocks** (see below), **4-Piece Mini-Playsets** and models of **'Edward and the Old Coaches'**. All products form part of *ERTL (UK) Ltd's* new range of Miniature and Pre-School toys.

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If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, one **yellow** and one **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode ..... **Age** ...

THOMAS TOKEN

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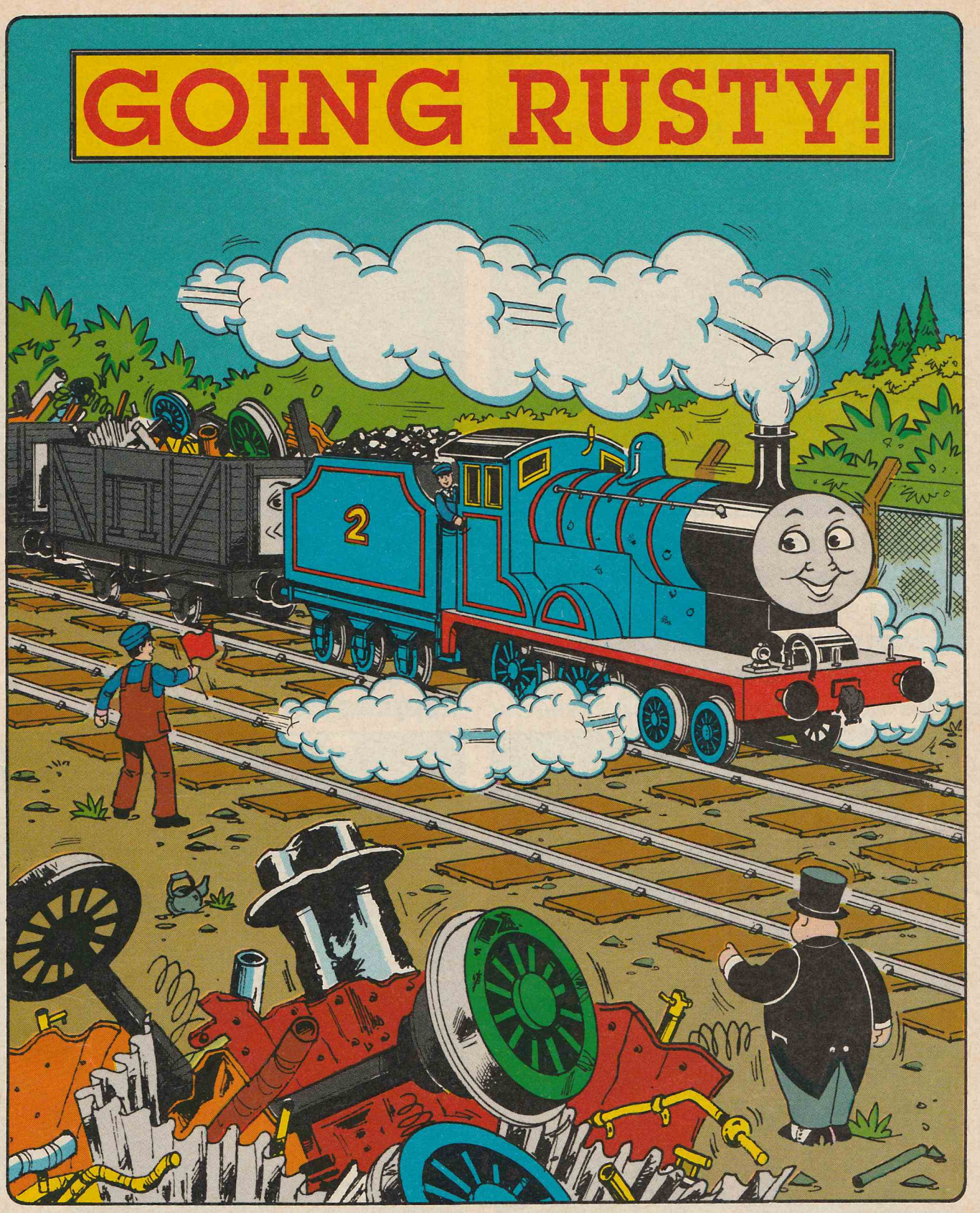
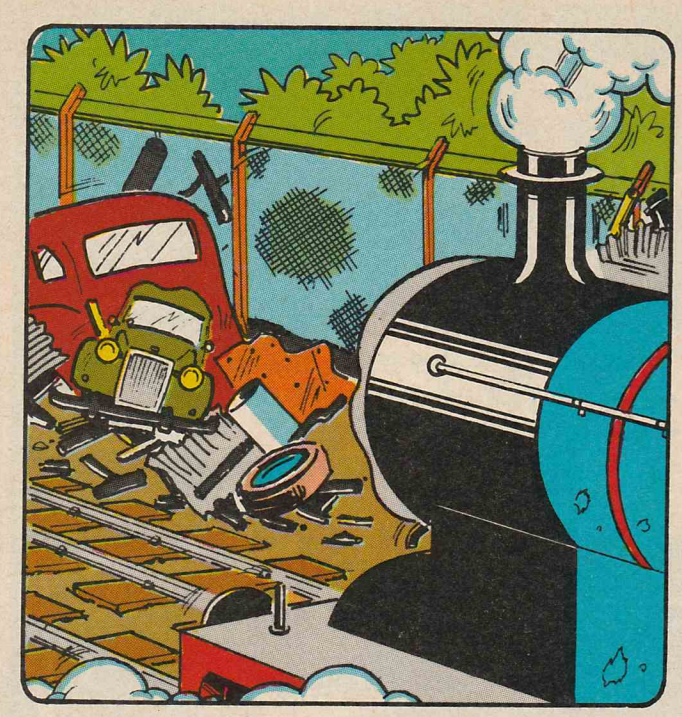
ABC

GOING RUSTY!

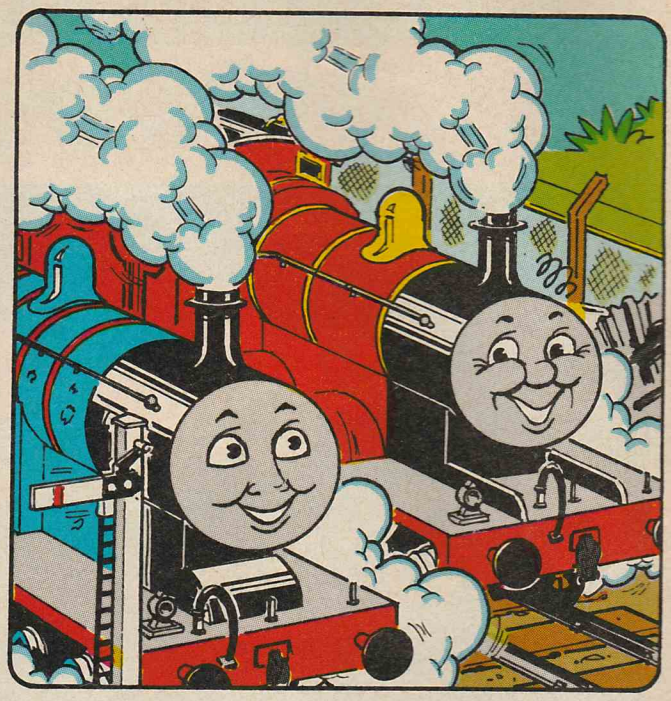


1. The Fat Controller liked his railway to be tidy. He asked the stationmasters to collect old, unwanted engine parts that were lying in the sidings and yards at their stations.

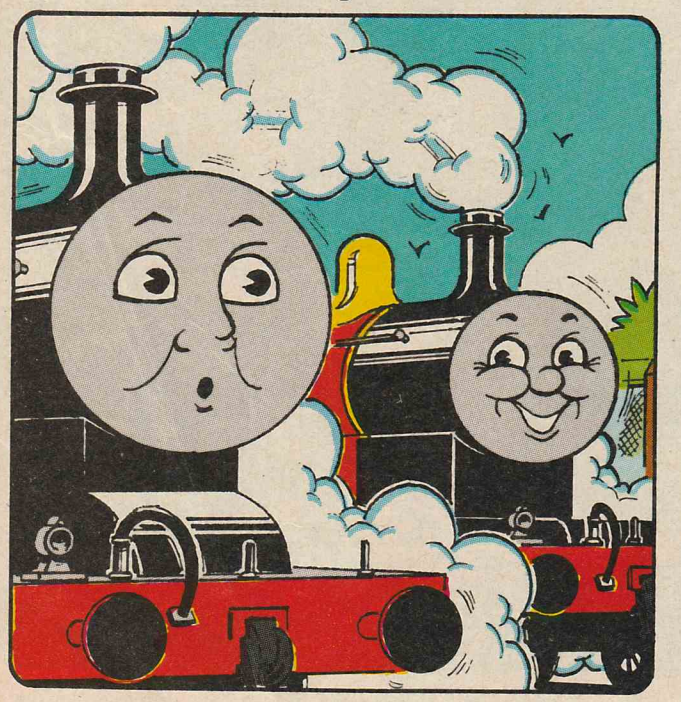
2. There were rusty wheels and buffers . Edward was sent up and down the lines with some empty trucks. The metal was loaded into them. Then he took it to the scrapyard.



3. Edward thought it was a sad place. There were piles of rusty metal everywhere. Edward saw old cars, a bus and old buffers. "I wouldn't like to rust away here!"



4. Edward's trucks were unloaded and he puffed on his way again. He was pleased to be busy. "Hello, Edward!" called James, stopping at a signal.

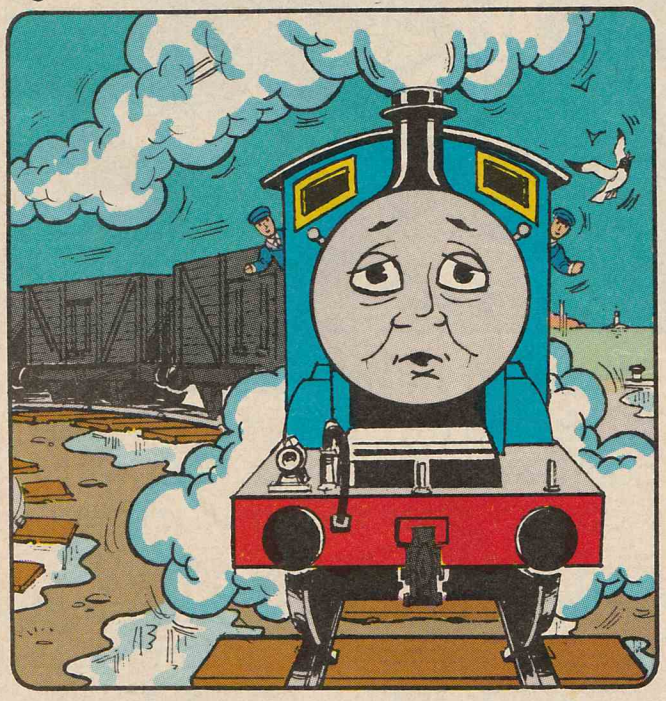


5. Edward was surprised. James was pulling the Express. "That's Gordon's task!" he said. "I'm taking the Express while Gordon is in the Maintenance Shed!" replied James.

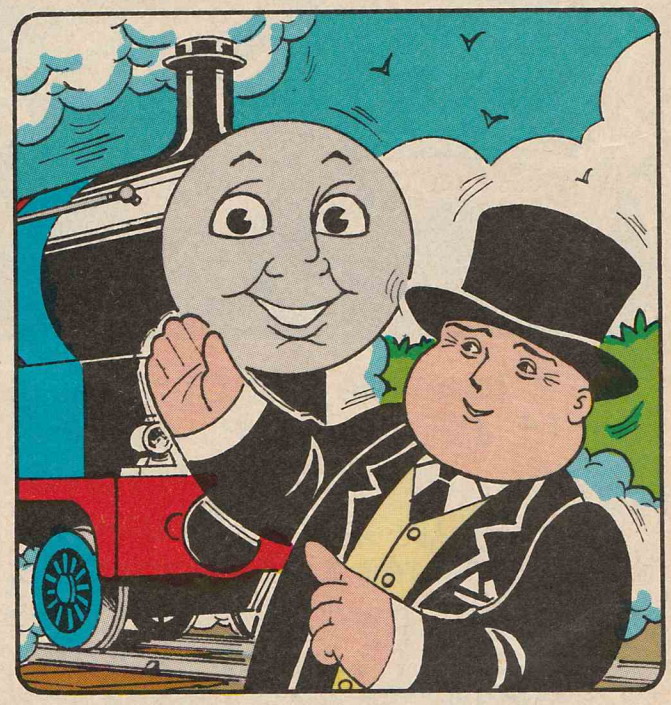
6. "The Fat Controller chose me because I look so splendid with my fine red coat!" James added importantly. "I wish I could pull the Express too!" said Edward.

7. "You're too old," said James rudely. "You even have rust spots on your paintwork! Only smart engines are Really Useful!" The signal changed to go and James set off grandly.

8. Edward was worried. "If the Fat Controller sees I'm going rusty, I'll be scrapped!" he said. Edward decided to try and keep busy so the Fat Controller would not notice him.



9. He returned to his own station to take a passenger train. Then he fetched some trucks from the Big Harbour. Edward worked until he almost ran out of steam.



10. At last, the Fat Controller asked to see Edward. "You have worked hard today, Edward," said the Fat Controller, "but you need a rest. I will send you to..."

11. Before the Fat Controller could finish what he was saying, Edward interrupted. "Oh, no!" he cried. "Please, sir! Don't send me to the scrapyard to rust away!" The Fat Controller smiled kindly. "Gracious! Of course I won't," he said. "You're much too useful! I'm sending you to the Works to be given new paintwork!" Edward was delighted.

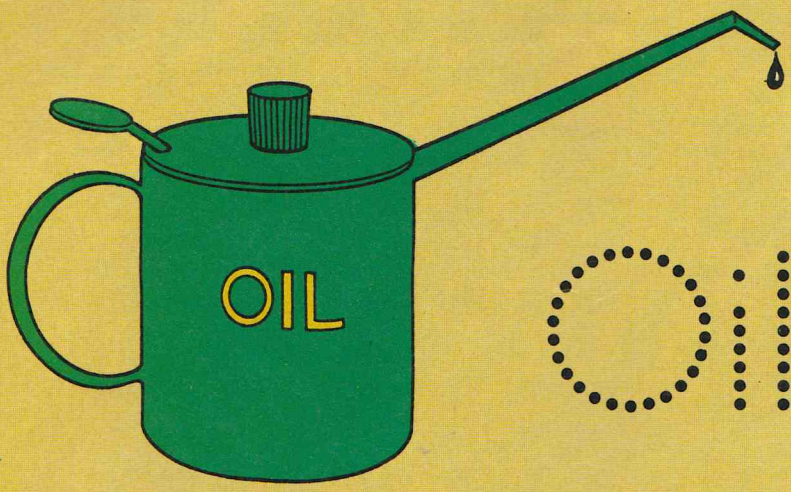
12. Later, he rolled out of the Works with his new blue paintwork gleaming. "I'm sorry I called you old and rusty!" said James. The Fat Controller arrived. "One of you must pull the Express while Gordon takes a special train," he said. "Let Edward do it, sir!" replied James. The Fat Controller agreed. "Edward is a smart engine now!" said James.

Next issue: Diesel and the flood!

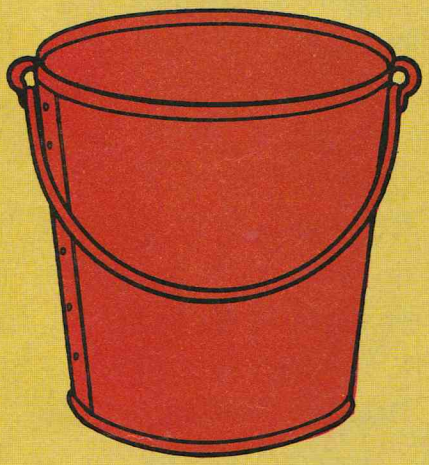
THE END!

PUZZLE TIME!

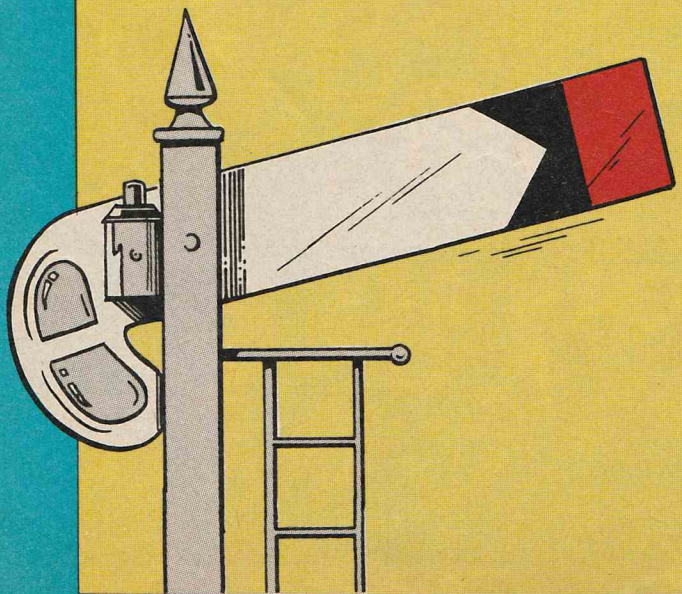
In our story, there were lots of interesting objects to be found lying around in the scrapyard! Look at the objects on this page! They are all made out of metal. You can write the names of each object in the spaces provided. Why not use the dotted lines to help you?!



Oil Can



Bucket



Signal

Answers: Oil can, Bucket, Signal.

THOMAS AND CHARLIE!

Thomas was up bright and early to take the post train. As he steamed busily along his branch line, Thomas neared a barn beside the track. A cockerel was perched on the roof.

"Cock-a-doodle-doo!" it called loudly.

"Peep! Peep! Hello, Charlie!" whistled Thomas. Charlie the cockerel was Thomas's friend. He lived in the barn which was used as a centre for rescued animals. A warden ran the rescue centre and children came to help feed all the animals.

The children enjoyed looking after them. Thomas liked to see the animals too. Thomas's driver always slowed down as he passed the barn because he did not want his steam and smoke to frighten the animals. There was a donkey, an old horse, two stray dogs, some rabbits, cats, chickens and, of course, Charlie. Like all the cockerels, he cock-a-doodle-dooed every morning.

When Thomas stopped, the warden and children waved to him, but they looked sad.

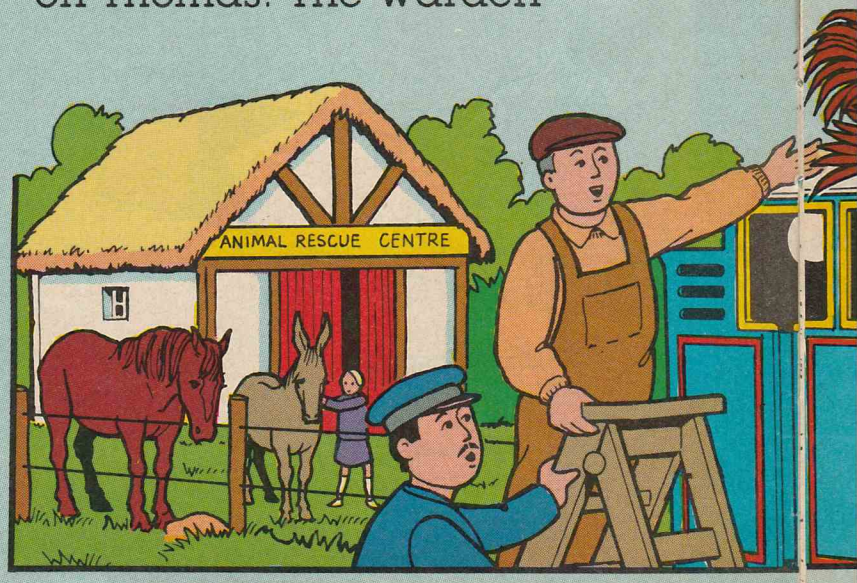
"The centre may have to close," the warden told Thomas's driver. "We need more money to care for the animals!"

Thomas was shocked. He wondered where the animals would go if they could not live at the centre.

"If more people knew about it, I'm sure they would help," said Thomas's driver. Thomas wanted to help too. Next moment, a sudden gust of wind blew. Charlie lost his balance on the barn roof. The cockerel fluttered down and landed on Thomas's cab.

"Puffing pistons!" cried Thomas. "Charlie wants a ride!"

The cockerel crowed loudly. The children laughed when they saw Charlie standing on Thomas. The warden

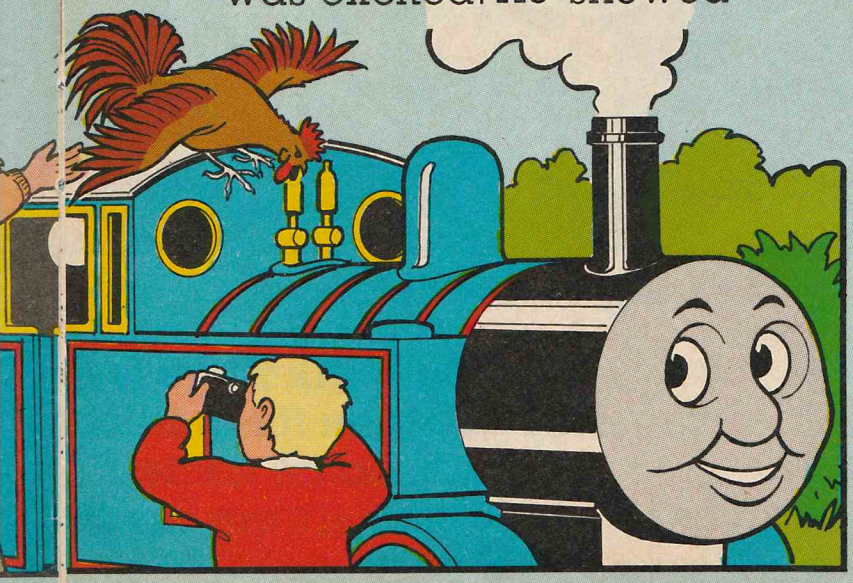


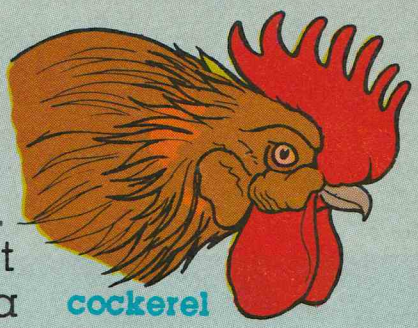
quickly fetched a pair of stepladders and stood them beside Thomas. He climbed on the steps to rescue Charlie but the cockerel scampered out of reach.

"Cock-a-doodle-doo!" called Charlie cheekily. Then Thomas's driver went on to the cab roof to try and catch Charlie. One little boy at the animal centre had a camera. He took a photograph of Charlie and the driver on top of Thomas. At last, Charlie flew off the cab roof and landed beside the barn. Thomas's driver climbed down and soon Thomas puffed on his way.

Later, at the Main Station, his driver told the Fat Controller what had happened. The Fat Controller had an idea and rang a friend at the newspaper office.

The next day, Thomas's driver hurried to work. He was excited. He showed Thomas a copy of the morning newspaper. On the front cover was a picture of Charlie crowing on top of Thomas. There was a story all about the good work being done at the animal centre and how it needed to raise money.





cockerel

Thomas was pleased. He set off cheerily along his branch line, pulling some trucks. When he arrived at the rescue centre, he slowed down. There was Charlie on the barn roof, as usual. The warden and children called eagerly to Thomas's driver.

"A man from the paper visited us yesterday," said the boy with the camera. "He borrowed the photograph I took!"

"Because of the splendid picture and newspaper story, lots of people have phoned me already to offer help," said the warden. "The animal centre will stay open!"

"Thanks to Thomas and Charlie!" said the boy.

"I suppose I did help, after all!" chuckled Thomas.

"Cock-a-doodle-doo!" agreed Charlie.

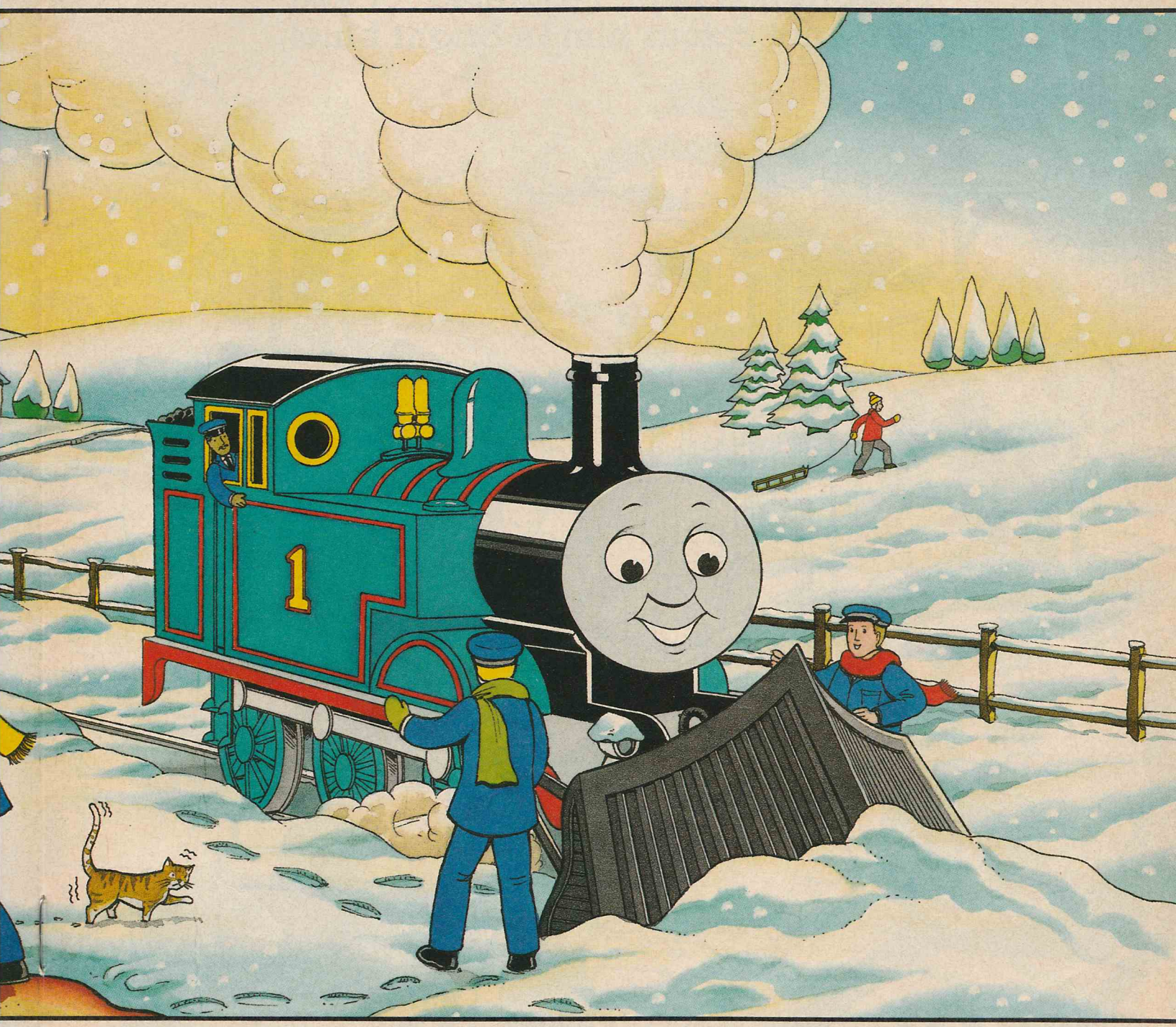
THE END!

Clearing th

Which engine can you see?
What is he doing?
How many people can you see?
What colours are the guards scarves?

Do you think there is a wo
Look at the footprints! Are
Point to some icicles!
What colour are the holly

the Snow!



s a warm fire inside the cottage?
s! Are they all made by people?
!
holly berries?

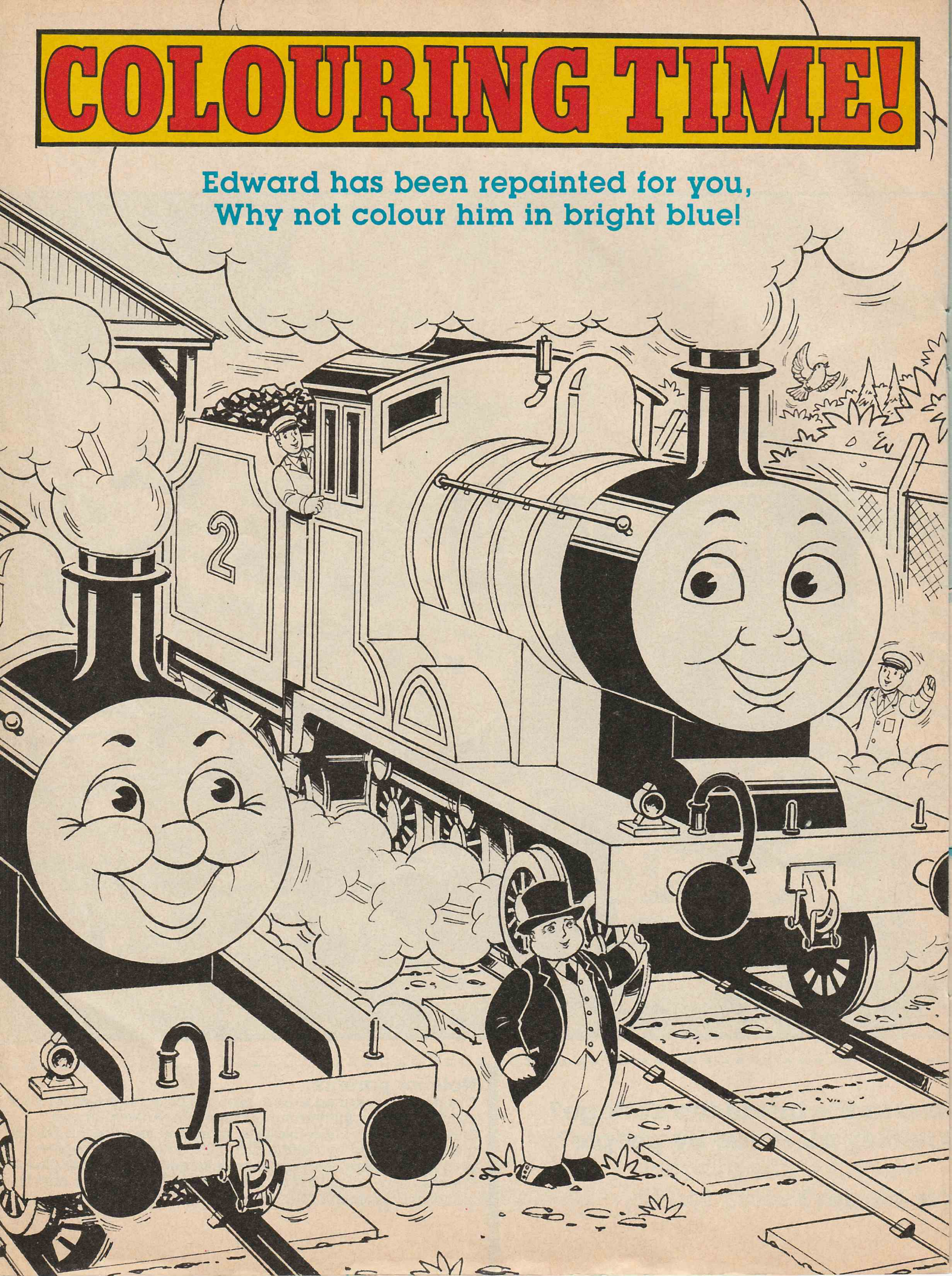
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

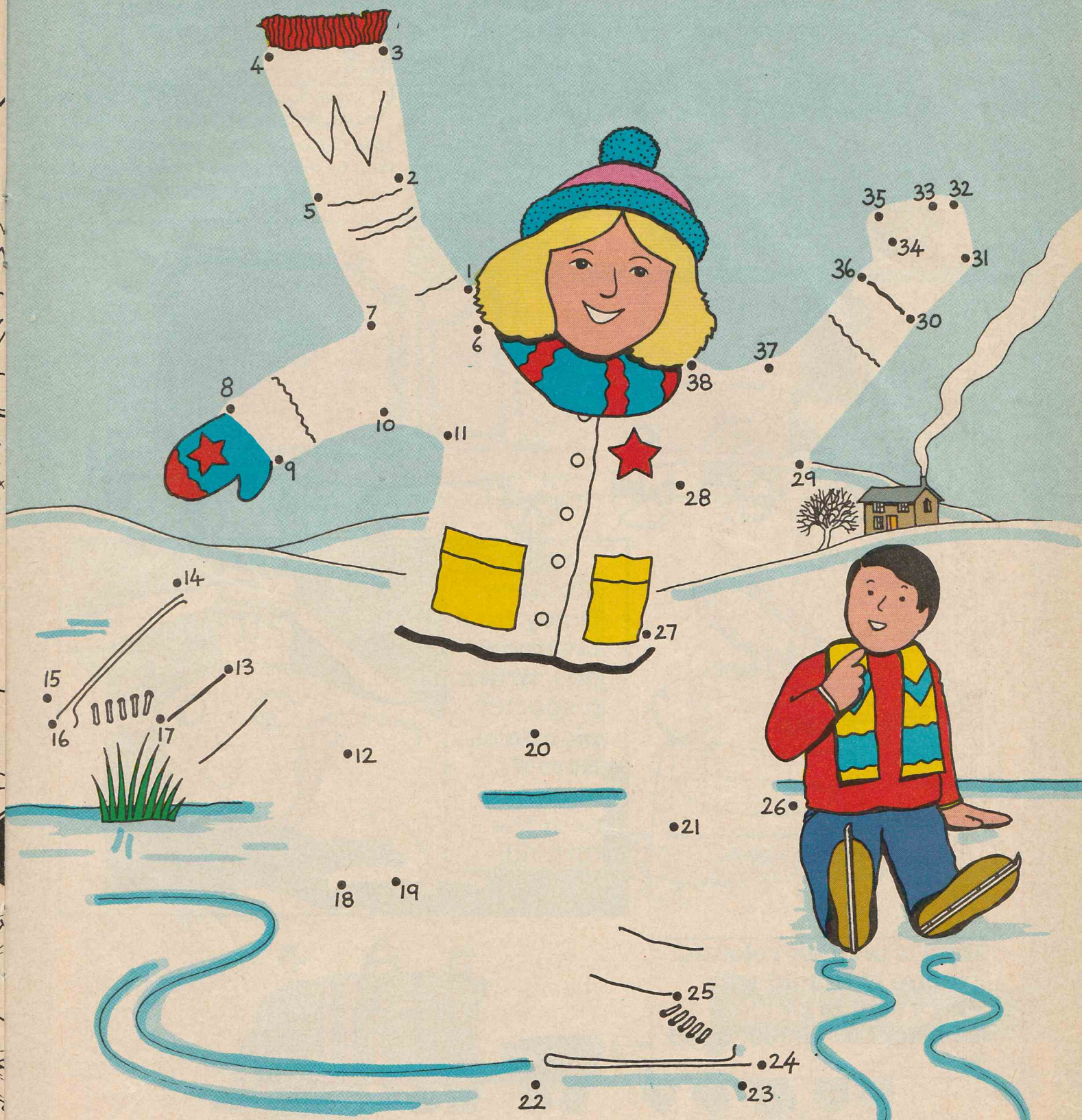
In our next issue: Past the sledge race!

COLOURING TIME!

**Edward has been repainted for you,
Why not colour him in bright blue!**



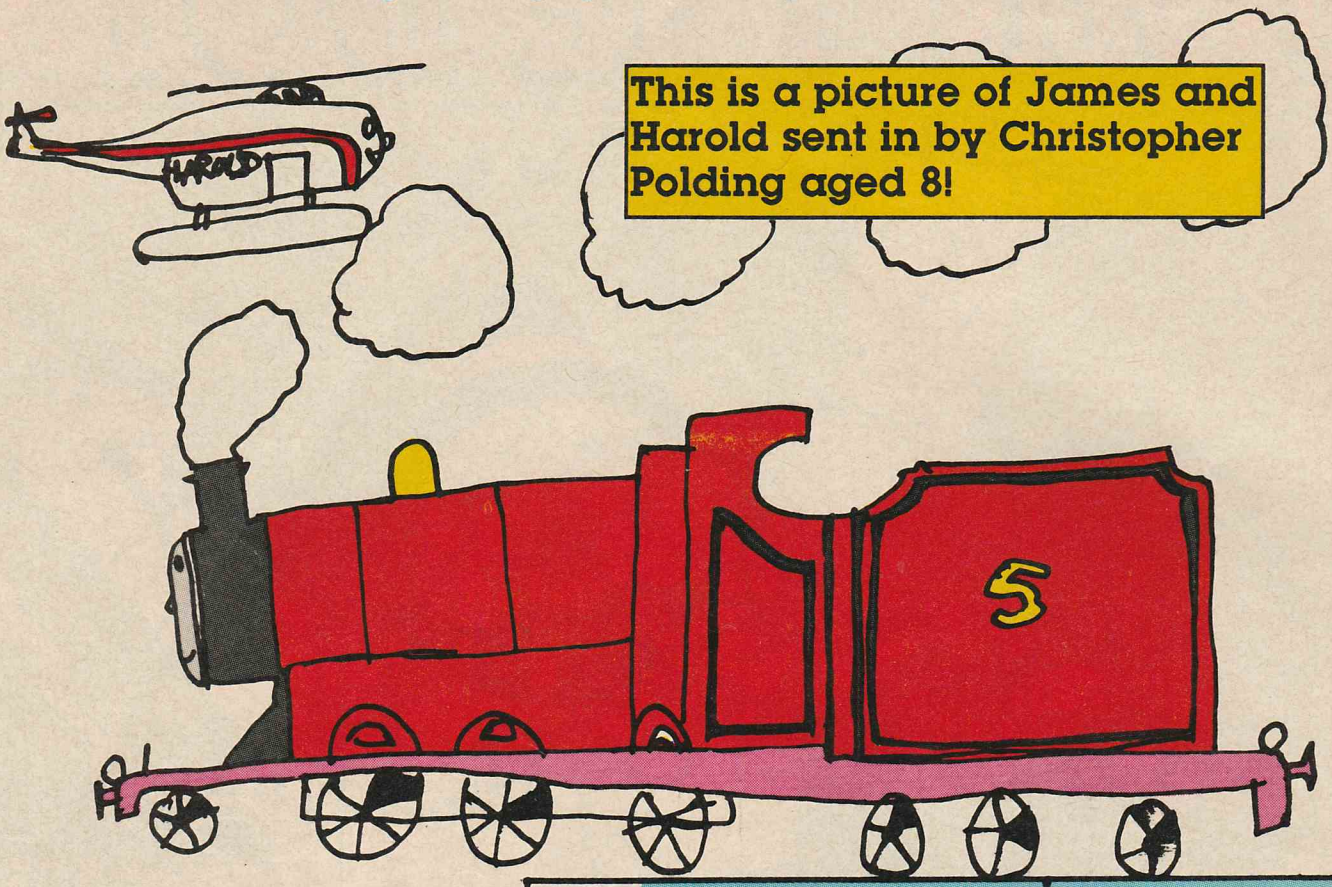
JOIN THE DOTS!



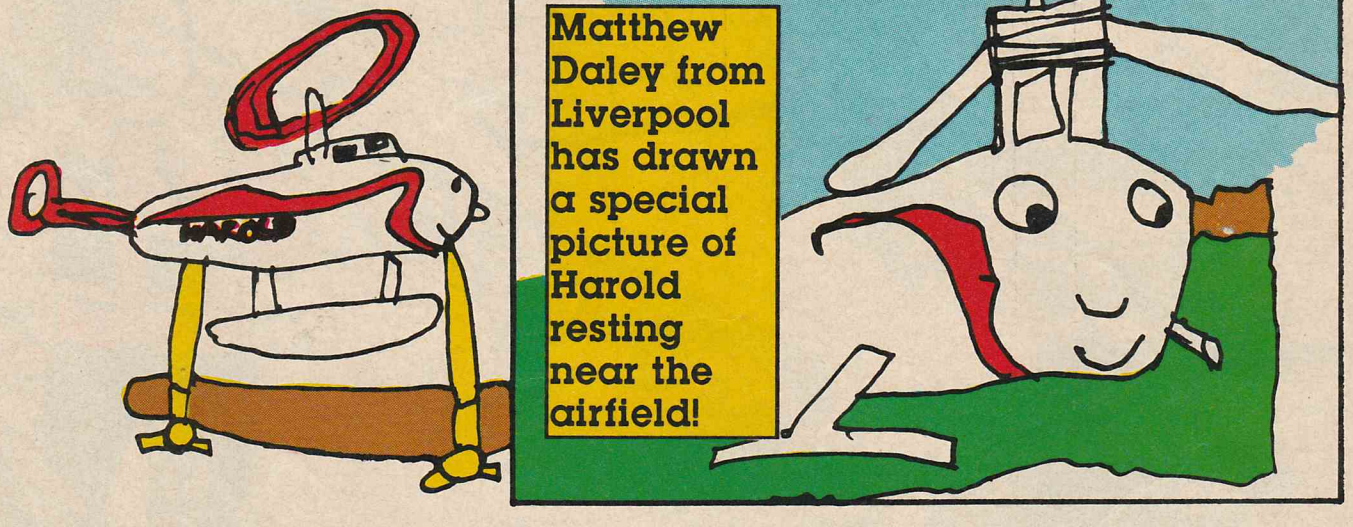
What is Bridget doing here? Join the dots and the answer will appear!

THE FAT CONTROLLER'S PICTURE PAGE!

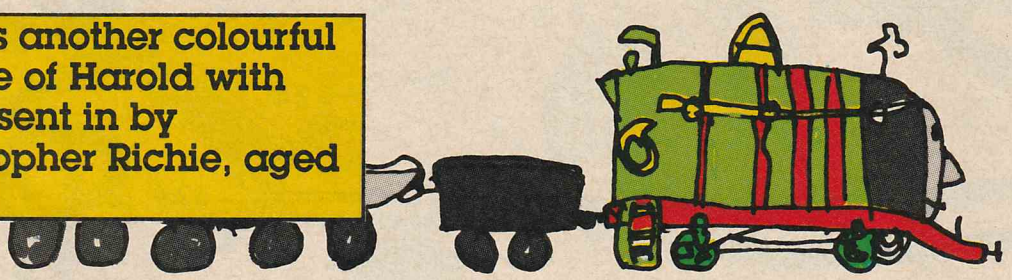
Welcome to our pictures page, featuring Harold the Helicopter!



This is a picture of James and Harold sent in by Christopher Polding aged 8!



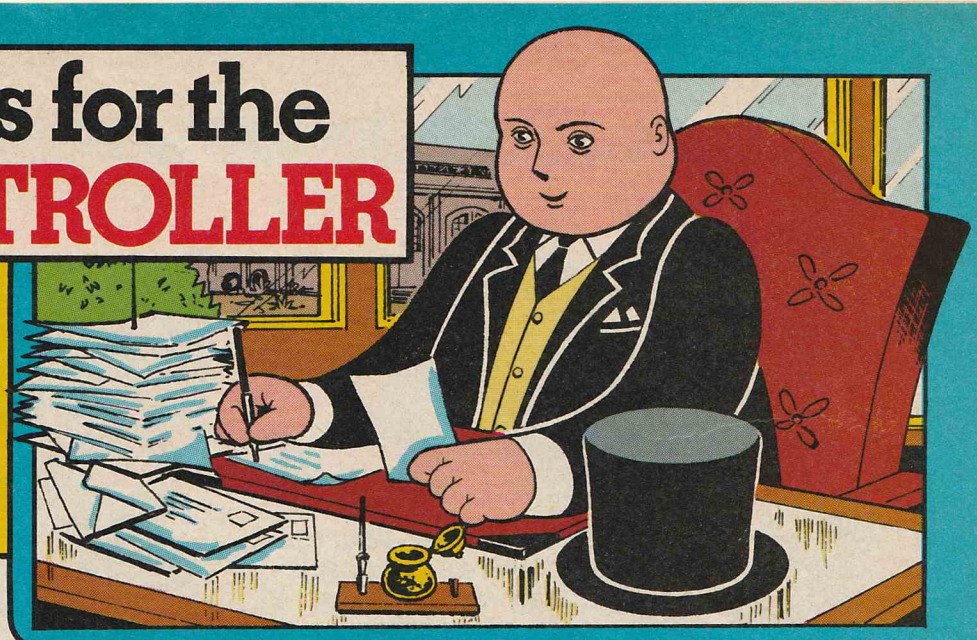
Matthew Daley from Liverpool has drawn a special picture of Harold resting near the airfield!



Here is another colourful picture of Harold with Percy sent in by Christopher Richie, aged 8!

Thank you all for sending in your pictures! We are sorry that we can only print a few! If you would like to draw a picture and have a chance of seeing it printed in a future issue, please send it to: The Fat Controller (Picture Page), the Island of Sodor, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2 3DX.

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

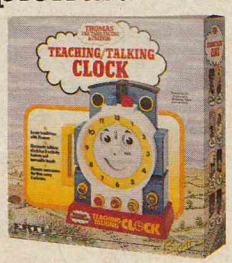
STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
My little brother loves all the stories about Thomas and his friends and his favourite story is when Henry gets stuck in the tunnel. He is always asking me to read it to him!

Love from **Lisa** and **Steven**, aged 8 and 2!

It is also one of my favourite stories! Henry has always been particularly fond of his bright green colour and he was frightened that the rain would wash it all away. However, I'm glad to say that Henry is not frightened of the rain anymore!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win this splendid **Thomas Teaching Talking Clock** courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*



HAPPY ENGINES!

Dear Fat Controller,
I think you are a very nice man, and you treat **Thomas the Tank Engine** and his friends very well. They are always happy and their coats of paint are always shining!

Love from **Kirk Edwards**, aged 3.

Upon my soul! I do try to keep all my engines very happy and I'm sure they appreciate it as much as you do!

TROUBLESOME ACCIDENTS!

Dear Fat Controller,
My daddy says that I am more trouble than the **'Troublesome trucks'**. Could you please tell me how naughty they really are?

Love from **Aaron Dore**, aged 2.

The trucks do behave badly but I tell all my engines to be very patient with them so that there are not too many accidents!

BIRTHDAYS!

Michael tweddell (39326), Mark David Turton (34111), Lee Sahm, Louise Dunn (38277), Michelle Plumb, Simon Parry (36425), David Quilty, Thomas Wray, Christy Leigh Williams (38828), David Andrew Sherman, Nickie Hanlon (37641), Stephen Gillett (28796), Adam Berrow (36796), Aidan O'Hare, Steven White (39154), Michael Waters, Anthony Boon (38434), Philip Houlton (20497), Timothy Spargo (38913), Polly Judge, Mark Bradley (37963), Isabel Thompson (39586) and Lloyd Richard Coombes.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least nine weeks in advance!

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

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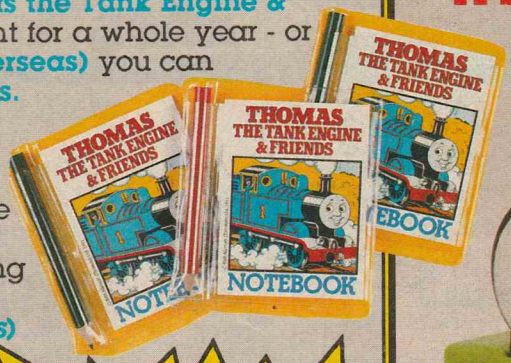

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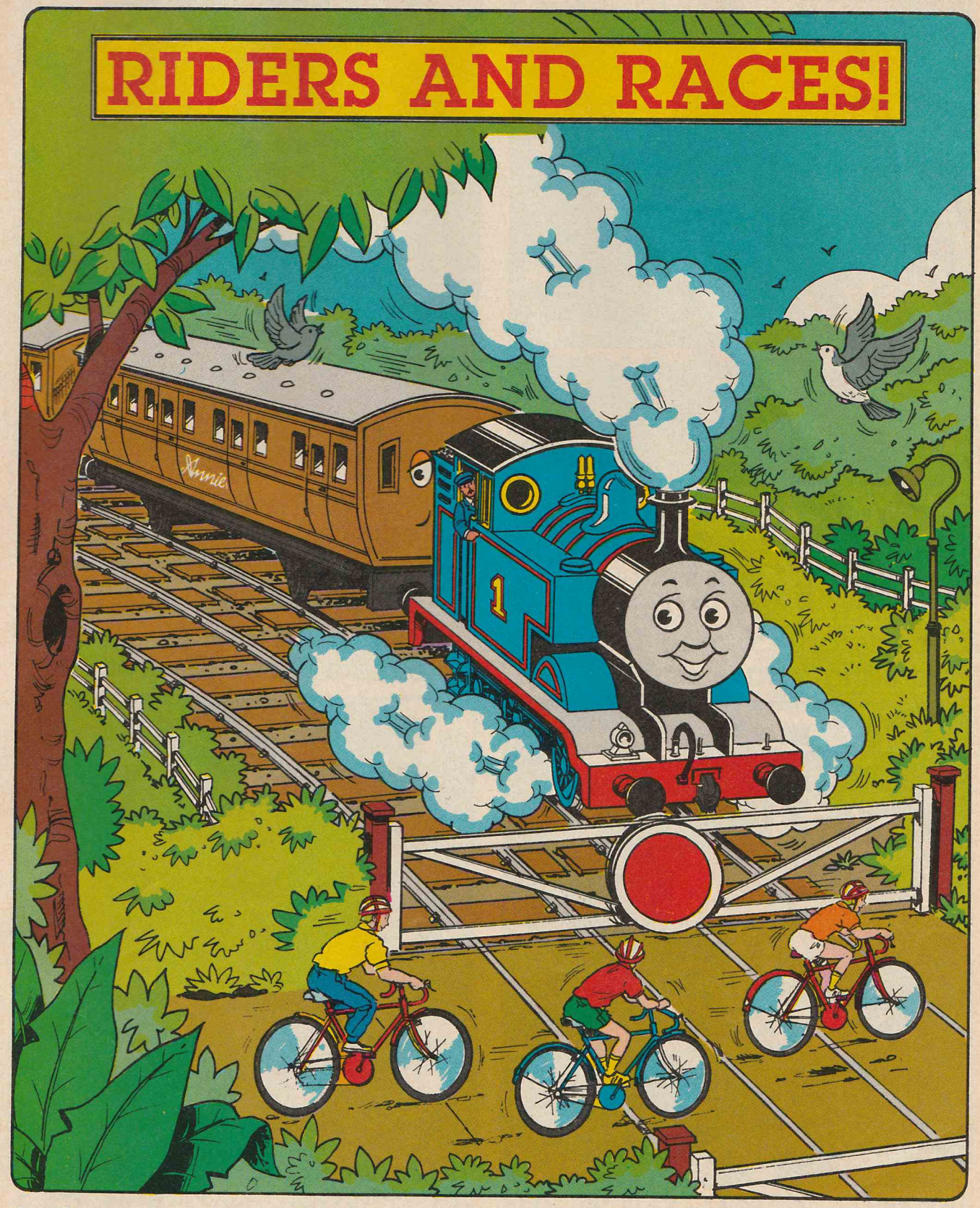
RIDERS AND RACES!

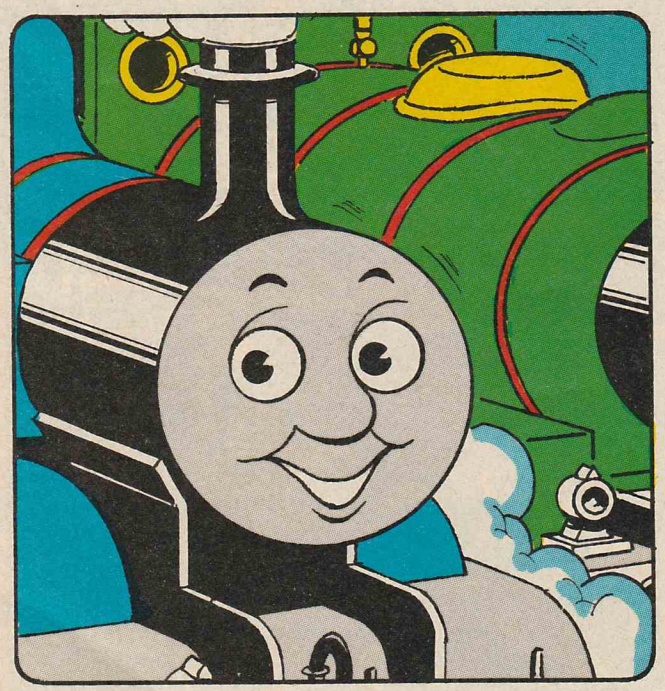


1. One morning, Thomas was pulling his faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel, along his branch line. As he puffed past a lane beside the track, he saw some cyclists pedalling.

2. The riders wore bright shirts and helmets. Thomas was surprised. He thought they all looked very colourful. Thomas stopped at a level-crossing while the cyclists went over it.

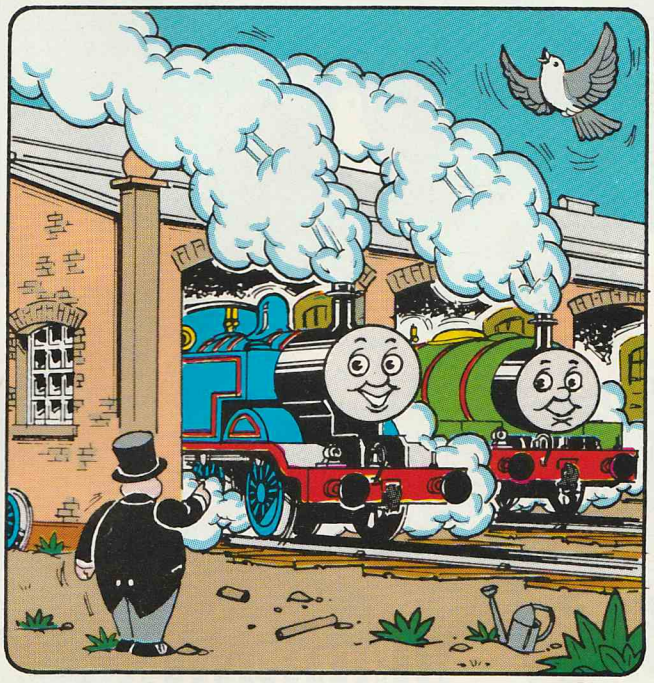
3. "We're training for the Island of Sodor Cycle Race," they told Thomas's driver. "It's next Saturday. Many more cyclists are coming from the mainland to take part!"

4. The cyclists rode off and Thomas puffed on his way into Kellsthorpe. Near the station, men were hanging up a big banner about the race. "It starts here!" said Thomas's driver.

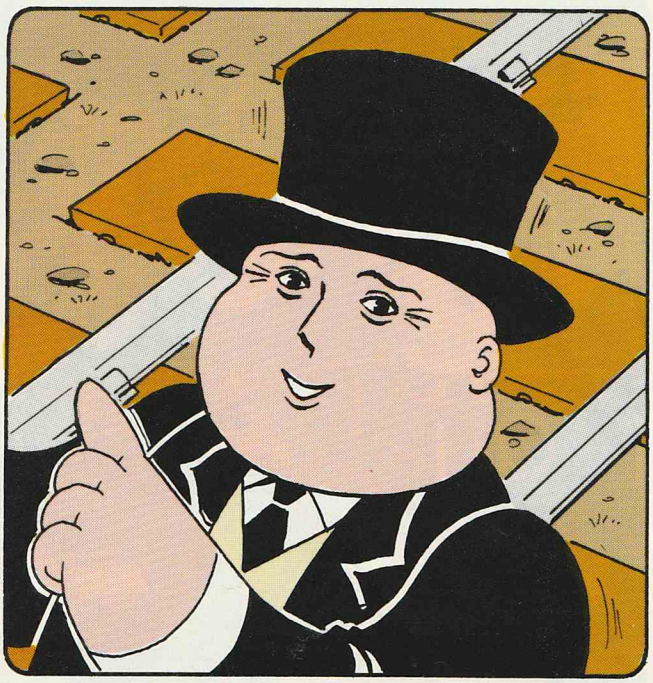


5. Thomas returned to the Main Station yard. He told the other engines about the race. Some of them had spotted the cyclists practising too. All the engines were very excited.

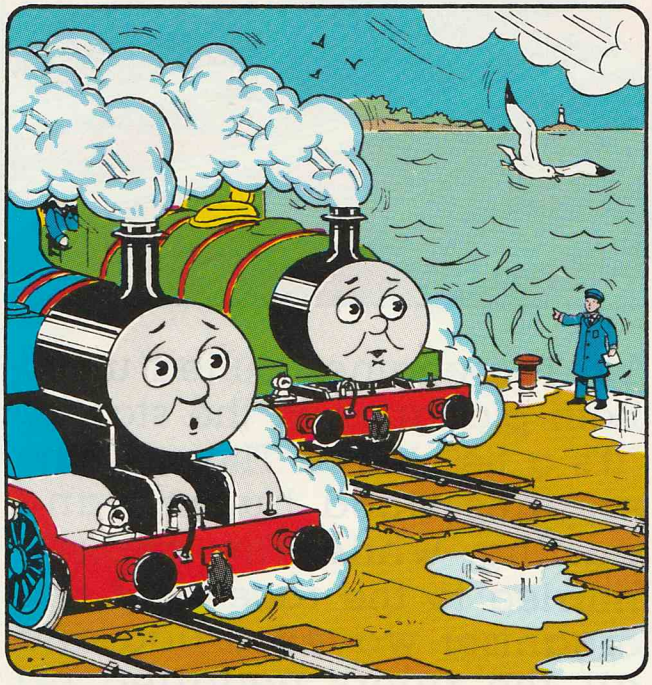
6. "Taking part in a race sounds good fun!" said Thomas. "I agree!" said Percy. "Really Useful Engines are too busy to race each other!" huffed James.



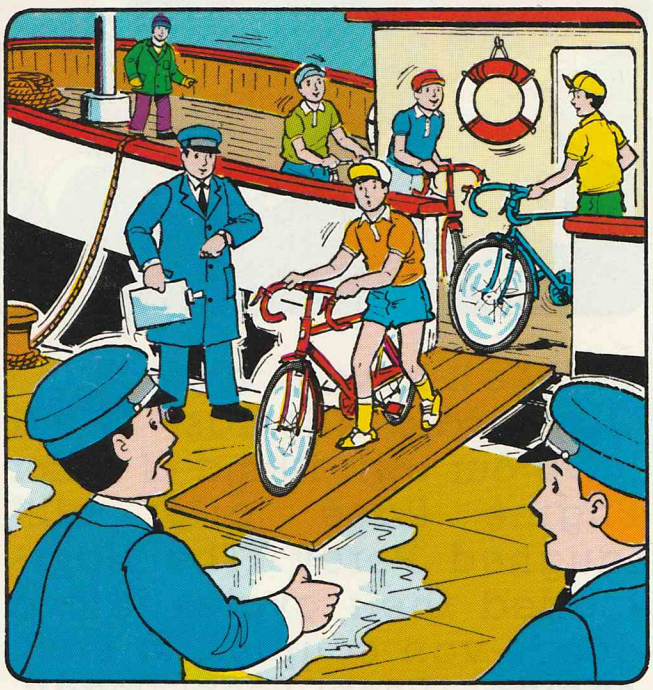
7. On the day of the Island of Sodor Cycle Race, the engines left their sheds early. The Fat Controller had arranged for special trains to carry all the passengers to the starting line.



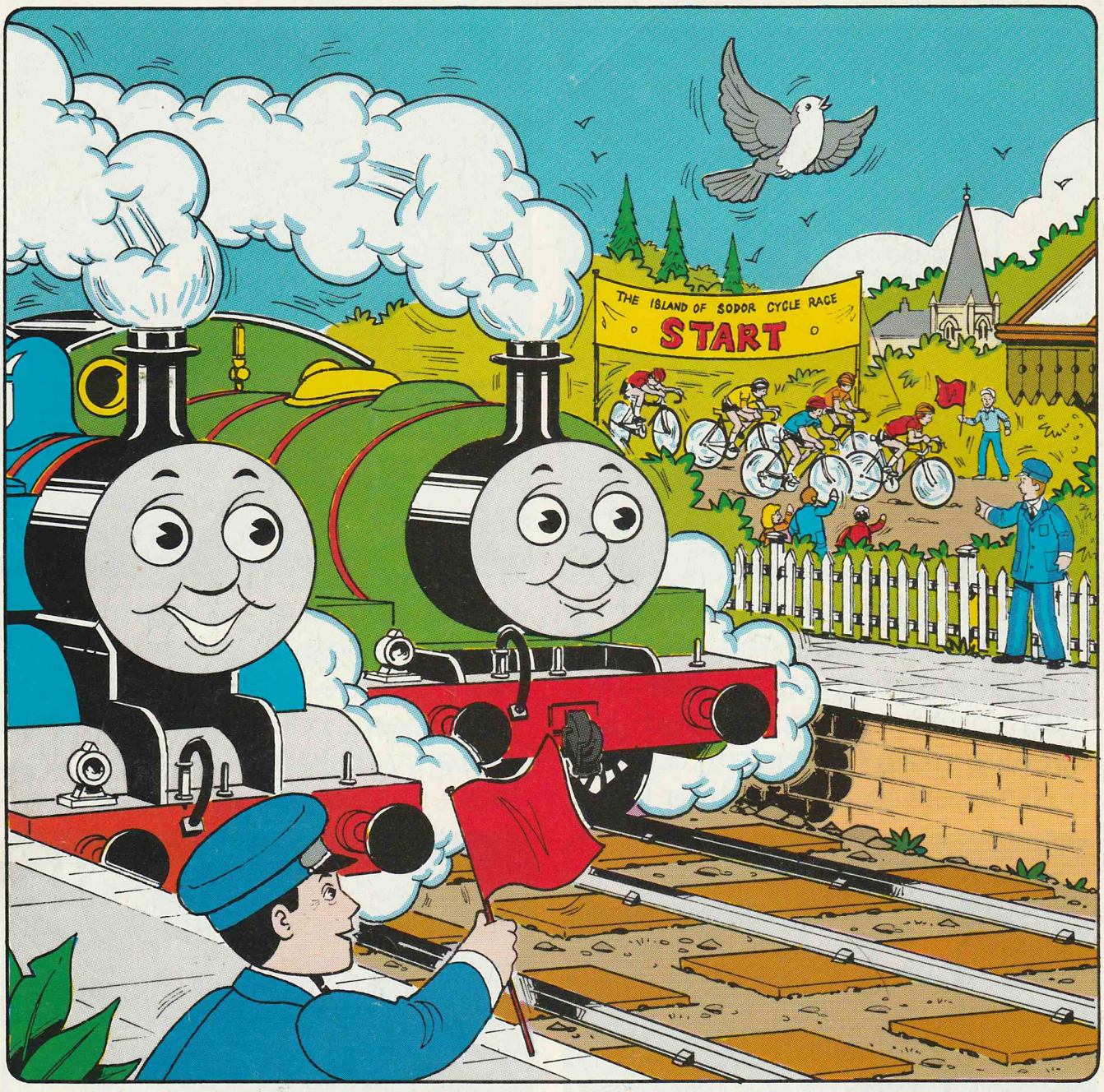
8. He spoke to Thomas and Percy. "You must meet the ferry at the Big Harbour," he told them. "It is bringing lots more cyclists for the race!" The two engines set off eagerly.



9. They were pleased to be given such an important task. When Thomas and Percy arrived, the boat was not there. "The ferry is late!" said the Harbour Stationmaster.



10. At last, the boat docked and the riders appeared with their cycles. "The race will start soon," they said. "We'll never get there in time!," the drivers told Thomas and Percy.



11. "We'll have to race all the way!" said Thomas. "We'll have our own Island of Sodor Engine Race, after all!" laughed Percy. The riders loaded their cycles into a goods van coupled to each engine. "Peep! Peep! Ready, steady, go!" whistled the engines. Off they rushed as fast as they could, towards Kellsthorpe Station.

12. The engines pulled up at both platforms at the station. "It's a tie!" hissed Thomas. The engines stood huffing and puffing while the cyclists hurried to the race start. An organiser waved a flag and all the riders pedalled off down the street. The crowds cheered them. "Our race was the most exciting!" agreed Percy and Thomas.

THE END!

In our next issue: The lost engine!